

From: Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce via in.constantcontact.com [*] <info@charlestonwvchamber.com>
Sent: 2/18/2019 4:03:59 PM
To: whartman@mail.wvnet.edu
Subject: WV Legislative Update, the 41st Day



The Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce

Today marks the 41st day of the Legislative Session.

Tuesday, February 12th was the last day to introduce bills in the House of Delegates.

Today, Monday, February 18th is the last day to introduce bills in the Senate.

Sunday, February 24th bills must complete the committee process to ensure three full days of reading.

Wednesday, February 27th is the last day to consider bills on third reading in house of origin. This does not apply to the budget bill or supplemental appropriation bills.

On Saturday, March 9th the Legislature adjourns at midnight.

This is an example list of bills of interest, not meant to be exclusive. We try to highlight bills of interest that are “on the move.” Please reach out if there are bills you think we should investigate and track.

Here is a link to the issues the Charleston Regional Chamber supports: <https://charlestonwvchamber.com/whitepapers/>

Education issues continues to be the focus of both houses of the Legislature, most noticeably in the form of the omnibus education reform bill (SB 451). The bill passed the House of Delegates with significant amendments. The bill is likely to be sent to a conference committee.

The House of Delegates held a Public Hearing on **HB 2519 - The Campus Self Defense Act** - which would allow concealed weapons on college campuses. The bill remains in the House Judiciary Committee. The Chamber is opposed to this legislation. You can read the Chamber's release [HERE](#).

Several bills appear to be on a fast track, including:

SB 1 – Increasing Access to Career Education and Workforce Training – Is the “Last Dollar In” commitment by the State to make post-secondary education available to more students through a grant process two pay for two additional years of college, community college or vocational training. The bill has passed the Senate and is assigned to the House Education Committee, with a second reference to Finance. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/Bills_history.cfm?INPUT=1&year=2019&sessiontype=RS&btype=bill

SB 4 – Relating Generally to Municipal Home Rule Program – would establish the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program as a permanent program without a sunset provision. This bill would allow certain qualified municipalities to continue with ordinances already established and to pass certain other ordinances in limited situations. The bill passed the Senate and is assigned to the House Government Organization Committee. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=4&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 29 – Creating Ten-Year Tax Credits for Businesses on Post-Coal Mine Sites – This bill was amended to extend the tax credit from five to ten years. It is set to pass the Senate this week. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=29&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 117 – Relating to Incentives for Consolidating Local Governments – This bill is set to pass the Senate this week. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=117&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 266 – Creating Intermediate Court of Appeals and WV Appellate Review Organization Act of 2019 – This bill is set to pass the Senate this week. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=266&year=2019&sessiontype=R

HB 2005 – Broadband Expansion Act of 2019 – provide a method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for tax purposes, give the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over make-ready pole access within the State, and establish the WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, all to expand access to broadband within the State. The bill passed the House and was assigned to the Senate Government Organization Committee with a second reference to Finance. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2005&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2392 – Allowing the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission to Issue Special One-Day Licenses for Charitable Events – This bill allows licensed brew pubs, bars and private clubs to offer samples of beer. This is important due to the increasing interest in craft beer sales, which the Chamber supports. The bill passed the House and is referenced to Senate Judiciary. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2392&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2538 – Providing Banking Services for Medical Cannabis – The bill passed the House and has been referenced to Senate Judiciary. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2538&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2481 – Permitting Retail Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sundays After 1pm – The bill removes the restriction on Sunday alcohol sales, except for Easter Sunday and Sundays on which Christmas falls. The Senate passed this bill and if the House concurs, it will go to the Governor for signature. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2481&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

Some other bills of interest we are following, include:

HB 2828 - Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives – Originating Bill in the House Small Business Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Committee. This bill would exempt taxable income from corporate net and personal income taxes during the businesses first ten years if being funded by an Opportunity Fund within an Opportunity Zone. The bill has been second referenced to House Finance. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2828&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 529 – Clarifying Provisions of Nonintoxicating Beer Act – This bill would remove the two growler limit per day. The bill is currently on the agenda for Senate Judiciary. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=529&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2550 - Creating a Matching Program for the Small Business Innovation and Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program - The bill passed the House Banking and Insurance Committee and is second referenced to Finance. The Chamber supports this bill and helped draft this last session. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2550&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2941 – Reinstating the Film Investment Tax Credit. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2941&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HJR 17 – Business Inventory, Machinery and Equipment Tax Exemption Amendment – If passed, this would place a constitutional amendment question to the voters of West Virginia as to whether the business inventory tax should be removed from the Constitution and be left to general law. The Chamber continues to support this effort, but remains concerned about the impact to local

government. The resolution passed House Finance and is second referenced to Judiciary.

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/resolution_history.cfmyear=2019&sessiontype=rs&billtype=jr&houseorig=h&btype=res

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